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A View From The Top

A View From The Top From the Regional Director

This issue of Stats Talk demonstrates the planning power of robust statistics. As we potentially enter another phase of the mining boom in WA, critical questions are being asked about what the impact of the boom might be.

Who will make up the labour force in the Pilbara? Will they be fly in, fly out workers? What will the flow on impact be on the labour force in Perth and other regional centres? These are only some of the questions that rapid change in the demography of this State create.

We can only hope to answer those questions with strong evidence about the labour force base and community that we are working with. The ABS provides data and information on a number of these issues, such as the invaluable information we garner from the Census, the monthly labour force survey, the Consumer, Labour and House Price Indexes, Average Weekly Earnings, and WA specific surveys.

While ABS statistics are invaluable, they are still only a part of a National Statistical Service that gives access to a range of data sources across Government and the private sector.

The ABS in WA is working hard to continue to develop the National Statistical Service in this State. Our partnership with the Pilbara Development Commission on the Spotlight on the Pilbara shows how access to a range of data sources can bring a more complete picture. We are currently working with the Department of Regional Development and Lands and Development Commissions to build a statistical picture of the whole of regional WA.



Michael Tindall, Government Statistician and ABS Regional Director, Western Australia

Latest WA Statistics

Latest WA Statistics

	WA	Australia
Population (Sep 2009)	2.3m	22.1m
CPI (annual rate, Dec 2009)	2.1% (Perth)	2.1%
Merchandise Exports* (Jan 2010)	\$6,522m	\$14,422m
Merchandise Imports* (Jan 2010)	\$2,006m	\$15,387m
Unemployment Rate** (Feb 2010)	5.0%	5.3%

^{*} Original estimates based on Australian Customs Service records. Figures are not based on a Balance of Payment basis.

The XX Factor

The XX Factor A Chillaxed Look At The Women In Esperance

In the XX factor we use data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006 Census of Population and Housing (cat. no. 2015.0) to learn more about women in a specific area of WA. In this edition we head down south to a place of renowned splendour.

Esperance is home to perfect pristine beaches and scenic national parks. A truly beautiful place to live by all accounts and in the 2006 Census 9,534 people called the Urban Centre of Esperance their usual residence.

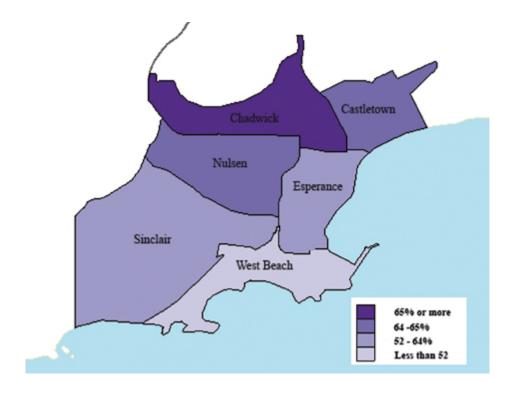


Lucky Bay - Cape Le Grand, Esperance

Of those 9,534 residents, 52% (4,908) were women. Perhaps this could be another reason that Esperance is considered one of the most beautiful places in Australia.

Not only were there more women than men in the Urban Centre of Esperance, but the girls don't mind getting their hands dirty with 41% (242) of all labourers being women. As far as professionals go, 55% (312) were female. Women had the highest representation in the Clerical and Administrative area. In fact, 86% of workers in this industry were female.

Proportion of Females in Esperance who have completed a Bachelor Degree, by Suburb - 2006 Census



Unfortunately, if you are a woman living in Esperance, your domestic labouring is quite high. 874 females reported doing 30hrs or more of unpaid domestic work compared to 157 males, while 1,050 women over the age of 15 volunteered for an organisation or group. Perhaps this is why Esperance won the 2009 South Coast Regional Tidy Town title?

As for education, more females (289) than males (188) stated that they held Bachelor degrees in 2006. Across all areas of non-school qualifications, Esperance women dominated except for Postgraduate Degrees where males (22) were slightly higher than females (16).

Esperance, beautiful and smart!

A Selection of Statistics for Esperance Urban Centre (sourced from Basic Community Profiles, 2006 Census)			
Number of females	4908		
Median age of females	36		
Proportion of married females (15+)	47%		
Number of females born in Australia	4051		
Most dominant religious affiliation	Anglican (948 females)		
Proportion of females undertaking voluntary work (15+)	28%		
Proportion of females participating in the labour force (15+)	55%		
Proportion of unemployed females in the labour force (15+)	3%		

Housing Finance

Housing Finance

Western Australia Statistical Indicators

During the first decade of this century, two separate grant schemes for first home buyers were introduced to stimulate the housing market.

In Western Australia, the implementation of the \$7,000 grant in July 2000 was followed by a 91% increase, from the previous month, in the number of commitments by first home buyers. However, a small decrease (2%) in the average loan size of first home buyers occurred in Western Australia, notwithstanding the introduction of the GST. By October 2000, the number of first home buyer commitments had reduced to 1,204 and the average loan for these borrowers was \$107,200.

The first grant initiative, the First Home Owner Grant (FHOG), commenced in July 2000 for owner-occupied housing, coinciding with the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

The second grant scheme commenced in November 2008, during the global economic downturn. This was the First Home Owners Boost (FHOB) for homes purchased after 14 October 2008 (and before 30 June 2009).

The primary objective of both the 2000 and the 2008 grant schemes was to stimulate residential building activity. However, due to other market forces, these government interventions had different degrees of impact on commitments and the average loan size.



Committed And Confident

By way of comparison, the global financial downturn of 2008 initially had a more serious impact on buyer confidence, until the government stimulus packages and lower interest rates took effect.

The November 2008 grant was accompanied by a much smaller increase in commitments (6%) than in 2000. However, coinciding with falling interest rates that assisted borrowing capacity, the introduction of the FHOB grant was followed by an increase in average first home buyer loans of almost 6% to \$281,700.

By March 2009, the average first home loan had increased by 25%, over the preceding 12 months, to \$293,900 while, for non-first home buyers, it had increased by less than 14%, to \$272,900.

Government initiatives during the previous decade led to a proportionate increase in the number of first home loan commitments. In the first six months after the introduction of the government grant in November 2008, the proportion of loans to first home buyers (excluding re-financing) in Western Australia grew from just over 30% to a record 43%.

Excluding the effects of re-financing by non-first home buyers, the average size of a first home buyer commitment has typically been smaller than that of a non-first home buyer. However, the implementation of the FHOB was reflected by an increasing of the average first home buyer commitment to a similar or higher level. In November 2008, the average size of a first home buyer commitment exceeded that of the non-first home buyer commitment for the first time since April 1992.

FHOB Watch

On 1 October 2009, the First Home Owner Grant was reduced to \$14,000 for new homes and to \$10,500 for established homes. Following this, first home buyer commitments in Western Australia fell by 10.8% (original terms) in November 2009. On 1 January 2010, the grant was further cut back to pre-2008 levels (\$7,000).

For further details on this stimulating subject, check out the full article on the website: https://www.abs.gov.au

Orang Indonesia

Orang Indonesia Indonesians in WA

West Aussies have a great affiliation with Indonesia, and Bali in particular.

In 2009 over half a million Australians visited Indonesia, Overseas Arrivals and Departures (cat no. 3401.0). Such is this affinity that a number of people from both countries have made the other nation their home. **Bagus, ya**?

Living in WA

According to the Australian 2006 Census there were 7,899 people living in Western Australia who were born in Indonesia. Of these, 101 persons had a mother who was born in Australia and 205 a father who was **di lahirkan** in Australia.

There were more Indonesian born **wanita** than **laki-laki** living in WA, 4,052 compared to 3,397. There were 244 Australians resident in Bali according to the **Badan Pusat Statistik** at the time of their 2000 Census.

The ancestry question in the ABS 2006 Census revealed that for those Indonesian born who answered that question, 43% claimed a Chinese ancestry as opposed to 41% an Indonesian ancestry. The only other ancestries above 1% were Dutch (6%), Australian (3%) and English (2%).

The age breakdown reveals that the Indonesian born population in WA consists mainly of **orang pemuda**, with the under 30s accounting for almost half (48%). There were 5 Indonesian born Western Australians over the age of 100 years in 2006, all male or colloquially, **opa**.



Languages

The main language spoken at home by the Indonesian born population was, unsurprisingly, **Bahasa Indonesia**, at 69%. Next was **Bahasa Inggris** at 18%, then **Bahasa Cina** 7% and **Bahasa Belanda** at 2%.

The vast majority of Indonesian born Western Australians spoke English that was **ahli** (43% very well, 46% well). Only 1% did not speak English at all.

A little over half (57%) of the Indonesian born population are in the labour force, lower than that of all Western Australians (65%). The most popular industries in which they work are **Kafe dan restoran** (250), **Masakan di bawah pulang** (188), and **Akomodasi** (121)

Religions

Indonesia officially recognizes six religions; Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism. In Western Australia those religions are represented in the Indonesian born population as follows; **Agama Katolik** 30%, **Agama Protestan** 23%, **Agama Islam** 18%, **Agama Buda** 9% and **Agama Konfusianisme** 0.1%.

Most Indonesian born Western Australians are recent arrivals with 43% coming to the land of the **kanguru** and **kakatua** since the year 2000. As WA's nearest foreign **tettanga**, Indonesians moving to Australia is likely to continue.

Glossary

ahli - proficient Agama Buda – Buddhist Agama Islam – Islam Agama Katolik –Catholic Agama Konfusianisme – Confucianism **Agama Protestan – Protestant Akomodasi – accommodation Badan Pusat Statistik - Statistics Indonesia** Bagus, ya? - That's great, isn't it? **Bahasa Indonesia – Indonesian (language) Bahasa Inggris – English (language) Bahasa Cina – Chinese (language) Bahasa Belanda – Dutch (language)** di lahirkan – born Kafe dan restoran – cafes and restaurants kakatua – cockatoo kanguru – kangaroo

laki-laki – men Masakan di bawah pulang – takeaway food orang Indonesia - Indonesian (person) orang - person orang pemuda – young people opa – grandpa tettanga –neighbour wanita – women

Squeezed - Perth's Middle Age Spread

Squeezed Perth's Middle Age Spread

Ever tried to fit into a shirt less than half your size?

That's what the Perth metro area might be facing in the next 40 years as the population is projected to rise from around 1.7 million currently to nearly 3.8 million in 2050, *Population Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2101* (cat. no. 3222.0).

Where will all these extra people fit? Will Perthites have to change the way we live? Will the Dockers have won an AFL flag by then? These are the really big questions.

As George Stone, WA's Registrar-General said in his preamble to the results of the 1848 Census, "It is by statistical inquiries alone that the relative well-being of our community can be determined." One hundred and sixty two years later his words still ring true.

So, using the 2006 Census results for Perth, and extrapolating out, let's look at what WA's capital city might be like in 2050.

The current land area of the Perth Statistical Division (the metro area as most would call it) is 5,423 square kilometres, about 319 persons per square kilometre. If we get to 3.8 million in that same space by 2050 that'll be about 710 per square kilometre and lots of people having to say "Excuse me', as they constantly squeeze past.

Can Perth's footprint continue to grow, and if so, what will that mean? Already people residing in the far northern suburbs are taunted by inner city, latte sipping trendoids as living in "South Geraldton". Might this actually come true?

Now statisticians are very good at counting things that have happened, but are somewhat reluctant to forecast what might happen. So the assumption here is that despite changes in the population, we'll still live in the same sort of housing, use the same modes of transport, consume energy at the same rate and that the aged population matches the current ratio.

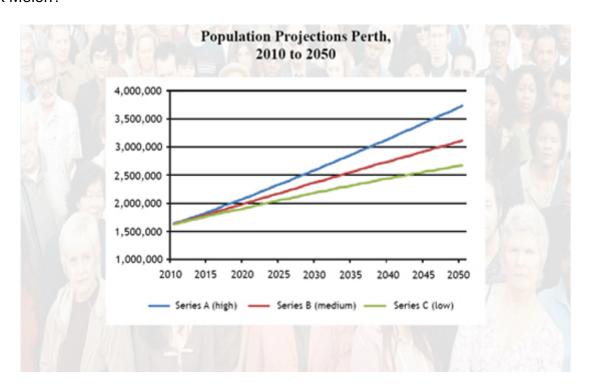


Crowded House

We all have to live somewhere and currently (2006 Census) 79% of us live in separate houses, 12% in townhouses and 9% in flats; a total of 528,533 dwellings. If we expand the area of Perth to live in the same dwelling types, with the same proportion of open space, then the city would have to grow to almost 12,000 sq km.

This means the metro area would have to extend from Lancelin in the north to the Lakes turnoff in the East and beyond Mandurah in the south. That's not quite South Geraldton or North Bunbury, but it's getting close.

According to the City Mayors Statistics website (www.citymayors.com), the world city with the largest land area is the New York Metro area at 8,683 sq km, holding 17.8 million people. So Perth is already around 2/3rds the land area of the Big Apple, but with just 14% of the population. Could it really expand to a third larger in area terms than the city that is so good they named it twice (New York, New York)? And will Perth then be known as the Big Rock Melon?



Bumper to Bumper

Perth people love their cars and in 2006 there were around 900,000 private motor vehicles. If we show the same propensity to get around by motor vehicle we could have almost 2,000,000 privately owned cars by 2050. Would this mean more than doubling our current

13,500 kilometres of roads so that we aren't in permanent gridlock?

And we are still using these cars to get to and from work, despite the exhortations of environmentalists. Currently almost 75% of Perth people drive to work and under 10% use public transport. This is a ratio that will almost certainly have to change by 2050, unless we all start riding electrically powered Vespas, or perhaps the local product, the V-Moto?

Power For The People

Of course twice as many people means twice as much power and water will be required. According to the Water Corporation "Climate change has seen a dramatic reduction in the stream-flows into Perth's dams by up to 50% as a result of a 12% decline in rainfall over the last decade."

In the 2008/2009 financial year, the average amount of scheme water each person used in Perth was 280 litres each day (www.watercorporation.com.au/D/dams_storage.cfm). Unless we start showering together and brick paving our lawns we might need to start building more desalination plants. The Water Corporation has released a 50 year plan to deliver sustainable water and wastewater services to Perth (www.thinking50.com.au) to address this issue.

Alinta Gas has 3,000MW of installed generation capacity of gas, to fire up our water heaters, stoves and space heaters. Maybe global warming won't see us need to increase that capacity by as much as the projected population increase?

Similarly, if we keep using our air conditioners, clothes dryers and electric leaf blowers as much as we do now, we will need to double the amount of electricity that we currently produce.



Packed School Lunches

We're constantly being told we need to get smarter as a nation and as at 2008 WA had 1,065 schools, catering to 275,000 students. *Schools Australia* (cat. 4221.0) In an expanded Perth this could mean over 2,300 schools and over 600,000 students. This may mean stiff competition for school names. Already there are 73 schools named after saints, including 12 after St Joseph and 9 after St Mary. The canonisation of Mary McKillop should see a rise in the latter count.

We've heard about how the population is ageing, but even if it didn't, growth alone would increase the numbers requiring assistance. In 2006 just over 50,000 people required

assistance with a core activity such as self-care. By 2050 this could rise as high as 112,000.

So, what does the future hold? According to UWA Professor Richard Weller, by using a unique approach, diversifying, whilst becoming more resilient and experimenting with new forms, Perth should meet its expected population growth of over 3 million people by 2050.



Article by Phil Smythe, Client Liaison Unit - Living extravagantly on a quarter acre block.

Ask Brian

Ask Brian The Statistician Answers Your Questions

Dear Statistician

I've been married for 15 years, but the gloss has worn off our relationship. What can we do to reignite the spark?

—Anxious In Applecross

Dear Anxious

The median length of marriage to divorce in 2008 was 12.3 years. *Marriages and Divorces, Australia, 2008* (cat. no. 3310.0). Looks like you are doing ok to me.

Dear Statistician

My boyfriend lost his job a few weeks back. Since then all he does is sit around and watch TV while I work to support us both. I know unemployment has undermined his confidence, but I'm not his mother! How do I get him out of the house and looking for work?

—Peeved In Palmyra

Dear Peeved

The Western Australian male unemployment rate for February 2010 was 4.9%, up slightly from January's figure of 4.6% *Labour Force*, *Australia*, *Dec 2009* (cat. no 6202.0). This equated to 34,400 males aged 15 and over out of work. This might seem like a lot but the WA male trend unemployment rate peaked in August 1992 at 92,100! Switch the TV off, there are jobs out there if he looks.

Dear Statistician

The uni students living next door are driving me nuts! Whenever they're bored, they drop by my place unannounced, without so much as calling! My privacy is very important to me. How can I make it clear to them that these unexpected visits are totally unwelcome?

—Flummoxed In Floreat

Dear Flummoxed

Young people are typically one of the most mobile population groups. Just over half (52%) of all young people (i.e. people aged 15-24 years) moved residence in the five years to August

2001. *Australian Social Trends*, 2003 (cat. no. 4102.0). My guess is that if you just hang in there, they'll move on before long. Best of luck.

Daries Danies County County County			Course		
Region	Range- lands	South Coast	South West	Swan	WA Total
Apples - Production (kg)	0	83,388	26,249,380	5,194,872	31,527,640
Oranges - Production (kg)	87,594	0	1,427,562	3,784,131,	5,299,288

Dear Statistician

Recently my mates have been giving me a hard time about my car. It's about 10 years old and I reckon it's in pretty good nick, but they say it's a museum piece and is painting me as a potential lawn bowler. Should I upgrade?

—Pondering in Prevally Park

Dear Pondering

The December 2009 seasonally adjusted estimate for total sales of new motor vehicles (89,741) increased by 3.3% when compared to November 2009 and a 17.2% increase when compared to the December 2008 estimate. *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Dec 2009* (cat. no. 9314.0). I think your mates might be on to something.

Dear Statistician

I'm due to go to dinner with my new girlfriend and her parents and am petrified I'll expose my bogan upbringing. Can you tell me which piece of cutlery goes where and is it ok to eat chicken with your fingers?

—Baffled from Bicton

Dear Baffled

Usual practice is that any data with a standard error greater than 50% should not be published. Also be aware that the Average Weekly Earnings series and the Labour Price Index, though both concerned with wage movements, are not strictly comparable. As far as table etiquette goes, start from the outside and work inwards and ensure your ACDC T-shirt is clean.

For *real* answers to *real* statistical questions, contact the ABS National Information Referral Service on 1300 135 070.



Australian Statistician, Brian Pink

Statistical News

Statistical News Developments In ABS Statistics

Australians Are Using Less Water But More Energy

Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends presents a snapshot of environmental issues affecting Australia. The 2010 edition also includes a feature article on the issue of climate change, and what it means for Australia.

This edition highlights that water use by agriculture has fallen by almost half in two years, with the biggest reductions occurring in New South Wales and Victoria, while the proportion of households using water saving devices has doubled between 1994 and 2007.

While water consumption fell, energy use rose. Australia's heavy reliance on fossil fuels, especially for power generation, has seen greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector rise by almost one-half since 1990, however emissions per head of population fell by 12% over the same period.

The Northern Territory and Western Australia lead other states in solar hot water use (54% and 21%, respectively), but overall, less than 10% of Australian homes were using solar hot water in 2008.

Australians are also living in larger homes with fewer people; this is increasing greenhouse emissions from the electricity and gas used to build and run them.

Further details can be found in *Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends January 2010* (cat. no. 4613.0).



Record Numbers Enter And Leave Australia

The total number of international arrivals and departures reached a record high last year.

There were 12.4 million overseas arrivals and 12.3 million departures in 2009, making a record of 24.7 million international movements across Australia's borders. This is an increase in overseas movements of nearly 60% since 1999.

In 2009, short-term movements accounted for 96% of the total 24.7 million movements. Short-term movements are travellers who have an intended stay in, or absence from, Australia of less than one year.

Short-term visitors arriving in Australia remained steady at 5.6 million. New Zealand, the UK, and the USA were the three top source countries, accounting for 40% of all short-term visitor arrivals.

For more information see *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, December 2009* (cat. no. 3401.0).

Australian Social Trends

The ABS released the latest edition of *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0) on 16 March 2010. The publication draws together a wide range of statistics from the ABS and other official sources to provide a picture of Australian society and how it is changing over time.

Increasing education participation and improving transition to work outcomes for young Australians are key objectives of the Council of Australian Governments 2009 National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment. This looks at the levels of engagement of young people in study and work including the transitions of recent school leavers.

In Western Australia, around 18% of young people aged 15-24 years were not fully engaged (in either study or work). This was just under the national average of 19%.

In the justice area, the imprisonment rate has increased steadily over the last decade. Australian Social Trends looks at prisoners who have been released from prison and then reimprisoned within 10 years of their release.

Within 10 years of release, 38% of prisoners in Western Australia were reimprisoned, compared with the national average of 39%.

Client Liaison

Client Liaison Summary of Events

Linking Up

A discussion between David Satterthwaite of Scitech and the ABS Client Liaison Unit's Hayley Priestley has developed into a plan to hold a Data Linkage workshop later this year.

Data linkage refers to the linking of records from different databases, allowing researchers to track interactions, i.e. between the health and education systems.

At David's suggestion the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) at UWA and Population Health Research Network (PHRN) have also expressed interest in being part of what the ABS hopes will be an opening dialogue on data linking.

July 2010 is the planned date for the conference which will cover not only existing linked data but look at issues such as ethics and linkage systems.





CPI Hits Perth

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) Roadshow recently came to Perth, giving people a chance to have their say on where they think the CPI should be heading.

Susan Kluth, along with Michael Abbondante and Caley Forrest from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, presented a CPI review which focussed on the principal purpose, compilation methods, relevance and timing of the CPI.

Discussion was lively, to put it mildly. Of particular concern was how the CPI was being used to adjust the pension rates of retired public servants.

After consultation has been completed an advisory group will look at all the issues raised and from approximately October next year a new iteration of the CPI will come into effect.





Indigenous Roll Call

The Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare have been commissioned by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to lead an analysis of the level of Indigenous identification in key school administrative data sets.

This includes investigation into collection methodologies, strategies for improving identification rates and drivers for change.

Hayley Priestley of the WA Client Liaison Unit is currently visiting WA regions to collect data for this project. So far she has visited schools in Broome, Exmouth, Esperance, Bridgetown and Bunbury. This data is vital for the Government to gain the true picture of Indigenous participation in education today.

Data is expected to be presented to COAG in May 2010.





Recent Releases

Recent Releases Publications of Interest

Publication Title	ABS Catalogue	
	Number	
Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends, Jan 2010	4613.0	
Recorded Crime - Offenders, 2008-09	4519.0	
Lending Finance, Australia, January 2010	5671.0	
Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary, Dec 2009.	8750.0	
Managed Funds, Australia, December 2009	5655.0	
Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, Dec 2009	6467.0	
Environmental Issues: Waste Management & Transport Use, Mar 2009	4602.0.55.002	
Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity, Australia, 2008-09	5678.0	
Underemployed Workers, Australia, September 2009	6265.0	
Schools, Australia, Preliminary 2009	4220.0	
Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Western Australia Sep 2009	8635.5.55.001	
Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series	6524.0.55.002	
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia, Jul 2008 - Jun 2009	6238.0	
Life Tables, Western Australia, 2006-2008	3302.5.55.001	

Sizzling Statistics

Sizzling Statistics

Grape Expectations

While 420 hectares of vines were removed from WA vineyards in 2008-09, there were still 615 hectares of vines yet to begin bearing. The total production for winemaking was just under 63,000 tonnes, with white wine grapes accounting for about 1.25 times more than red wine grapes. Cheers. (cat. no. 1329.0)

A Lot Of Weet Bix

In January 2010 there were 6,621,000 tonnes of wheat stored by bulk grain handlers in WA, almost 40% of the national total of wheat grain stored. SA and NSW hold the next highest grain stocks, both about 60% of WA's total. All this should make for a lot of happy Aussie kids. (cat. no. 7122.0.55.001)

Nobody At The Inn

The seasonally adjusted room occupancy rate for tourist accommodation in WA in the September quarter 2009 was 63.9%, the lowest recorded rate since the current series began in March quarter 2006. Takings for the quarter were just over \$205 million. (cat. no. 8635.0.55.001)

Shovel Ready

In December 2009 there was construction work to the value of \$8.6 billion "in the pipeline" in Western Australia. Of this, approximately 45% was residential building and 55% non-residential building. This is a big increase on 5 years ago, when such work was valued at around \$3 billion. (cat. no. 8755.0)

Go West Young Man, And Woman

November 2009 Average Weekly Earnings data shows both WA men and women earning more than the Australian average. For full-time adult total earnings WA blokes took home \$1,539 a week, 12% above the national average and WA females \$1,117, or 2% higher. (cat. no. 6302.0)

Census Tables

Interested in a specific Census topic? Want data on a particular area? If so, Census Tables are for you.

Choosing from key Census characteristics of persons, families and dwellings, the online Census Tables tool provides you with a single table of Census data for a chosen location.

Select an area, pick a topic, it's really just that simple. Census Tables has been designed to assist you in researching, planning and analysing topical issues or areas of interest.

It also enables comparisons to be made between different areas on a number of social, economic and demographic variables.

Easy to operate, fast to access, Census Tables presents you with the information you require - for free!

Census Tables

About this Release

Stats Talk is a newsletter produced by the Western Australian office of the ABS. It provides information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews

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